

The Watchman and Southron.

SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1880.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aime'st at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1888.

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DELIVER SMASHING BLOW.

BRITISH GIVE THE GERMANS NO REST IN FLANDERS.

They are Driving Forward on Menin Road, The Object Apparently Being to Endanger German Line on Belgian Coast.

With less than one week's wait after delivering the recent smashing blow to the Germans in Flanders, the British this morning launched another drive on a wide front northeast of Ypres and were making good progress, according to early reports.

The British struck as the Germans were staggering from the repulse received at Ypres ridge after a violent attack yesterday and they are being driven back.

Apparently the effort is aimed at the driving in deeper of the wedge across the Ypres-Menin road, northward beyond the Ypres-Roulers railroad, with intention of endangering the German north line along the Belgian coast. The British also bombard the German naval base at Ostend.

Only artillery fire is reported on the French front. It is intense in the Verdun sector.

BRITISH EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL.

New Drive Carried Them Forward Twelve Hundred Yards.

British Headquarters, France and Belgium, Sept. 26.—Along the northern half of the line attacked this morning the British advanced at numerous places, a thousand to twelve hundred yards. The Germans are retreating the advance desperately. Along a front of a thousand yards astride the Ypres-Menin road a terrific struggle is proceeding. The British appear to have been extremely successful on the northern half of the line. No news has been received from the southern end.

BRITISH IN FLANDERS.

British Renewed Offensive On Ypres Front This Morning.

London, Sept. 26.—The British attacked again this morning on a wide front on the Ypres section. Progress is reported.

REMOVED TO ESCAPE REMOVAL.

Ferguson Filed Resignation as Governor Monday.

Austin, Sept. 25.—James E. Ferguson, who, by a vote late today of the State senate, sitting as a court of impeachment, was ordered removed from office as governor of Texas and barred from holding any public office "of honor, trust or profit," filed his resignation as governor with the secretary of State last night, almost 24 hours before the senate took final action to remove him from office.

This was learned tonight and announcement was made by the former governor that he will go before the people of the State for vindication and restoration to office.

FOR BREAK WITH BERLIN.

Argentine Chamber of Deputies Votes 53 to 18.

Buenos Aires, Sept. 25.—The Chamber of Deputies today voted in favor of a rupture with Germany. The vote was 53 to 18.

The resolution declaring for the breaking off of relations with Germany adopted today by the Chamber of Deputies was passed last week by the Argentine Senate by a vote of 33 to 1.

Would Aid in Patrol.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Besides adding to the consolidation of the Americas in the war for democracy the addition of Argentina to Germany's list of enemies would mean the partial relieving of the United States and Brazilian fleets in the patrol of the South Atlantic, even if there should not be more spectacular cooperation by sending an army to France.

MEANS BOUND OVER.

Waives an Examination and Magistrate Holds Him Without Bail.

Concord, N. C., Sept. 25.—Gaston B. Means waived examination in the midst of his preliminary hearing here late today and consented to be bound over to the October term of the Cabarrus county grand jury on a charge of having murdered Mrs. Maud A. King of New York and Chicago. Magistrate Pitts ordered him held without bail. The grand jury meets Oct. 30.

MONEY FOR THE WAR.

APPROPRIATES EIGHT BILLIONS TO DEFEAT PRUSSIA.

Eight Hundred Million Dollars Added to House Items and Sent Into Conference.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Without a roll call and after brief debate, the senate late today passed the eight billion dollar war deficiency appropriation bill. Nearly \$800,000,000 was added to the measure as it came from the house and it now goes to conference.

Items for many millions of dollars were approved with only a handful of senators present, and without discussion. Senator Martin, chairman of appropriations committee and Democratic floor leader, urged sharp scrutiny of what he termed extravagant and almost reckless departmental estimates. He said appropriations during five months of war would reach about \$20,000,000,000 and expressed concern lest next year's total might be \$50,000,000,000.

Over the Democratic leader's opposition the senate adopted, 23 to 26, an amendment by Senator Robinson appropriating \$500,000 for the employment bureau of the department of labor.

As it goes to conference the bill totals \$7,991,400,000, including \$2,385,000,000 of contract authorization and senate committee amendments totaling \$779,000,000. Its principal items include:

Shipping board, \$635,000,000 cash for the construction program; army and navy emergency funds, \$100,000,000 each; construction of torpedo boat destroyers, \$225,000,000; army transportation, \$413,000,000; fortifications, \$1,495,000,000 appropriated and \$975,000,000 more authorized; army subsistence, \$320,000,000; clothing and camp equipment, \$357,000,000; engineer operations, \$191,000,000; medical department, \$129,000,000; ordnance stores and ammunition, \$732,270,000; manufacture of arms, \$32,490,000; automatic machine guns, \$113,520,000; armored motor cars, \$36,750,000 with \$75,550,000 additional authorized; naval aviation, \$45,000,000; naval ammunition, \$40,146,000 with \$15,000,000 more authorized; naval batteries \$50,000,000 and \$28,000,000 more authorized; naval reserve ordnance \$47,500,000 and \$17,500,000 more authorized; and naval training camps \$12,600,000.

With the understanding that it would be perfected and reintroduced in conference, the senate struck out an appropriation of \$1,240,000 for civilian training camps. It also rejected an amendment of Senator Fletcher for \$350,000 for Key West naval station improvements. After tart debate between Secretary Daniels and Navy League officers, Senator Curtis' amendment authorizing the navy head to accept contributions from the league's women's auxiliary was defeated.

HURRICANE NEAS MOBILE.

Tropical Storm Still Moving Toward the Gulf Coast.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The tropical hurricane is still approaching the Gulf coast, the weather bureau announced today. Hurricane warnings are out from Mobile to Appalachicola, and storm warnings for the balance of the Florida coast.

THE STRIKE AT NORFOLK.

Men Advised to Return to Work Pending Adjustment of Differences.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The International officers of the unions involved in the strike of mechanics at the Norfolk navy yard have advised the local union official to have the men return to work pending negotiations for settling their differences.

NAVIS FALSE RUMOR.

No Truth in Report Merchant Ships and Convoys Were Sunk.

Washington, Sept. 25.—Official denial was issued tonight by the navy department of a published report that five merchant ships and two convoying vessels had been sunk by submarines. Secretary Daniels has promised that casualties will not be withheld from the public.

The department's statement, issued through the public information committee, follows:

"Within the past few days a report that five merchant ships and two convoying vessels were sunk in a battle with submarines has received wide criticism in the press. The navy department authorizes the statement that this story is entirely without foundation."

COTTON CROP CONDITION.

AVERAGE FOR BELT IS 59.8 PER CENT OF NORMAL.

Heavy Boll Weevil Damage From Infested Areas—Little Hope of Top Crop—Where There is Promise of Late Fruitage It is in Danger of Damage From Frost.

Memphis Commercial-Appeal, Sept. 24. The condition of the growing cotton crop is 59.8 per cent. of normal, according to reports from correspondents of The Commercial Appeal from over the belt.

This figure compares with a government condition on August 25 of 67.8 per cent. 56.3 per cent on September 25 last year, and a 10-year average of 65.7. The loss in condition for September is 8 points, which compares with 4.9 last year and 10-year average of 5.2 points. The excessive loss may be explained, however, from the fact that his year's crop lost only 2.5 points in August, due to the lateness of the plant.

Based upon the above condition figures, the indicated yield is 11,913,000 bales, according to the government method of considering a condition of 100 per cent. on this date as indicative of a per acre yield of 278 pounds.

Unfavorable weather conditions, together with heavy insect damage, especially from boll weevil in infested areas, may be held responsible for the big loss in condition sustained by the crop during the month. Temperatures have been too low a great part of the time, while sudden changes from hot to cold have caused shedding of fruit from a plant never too well fruited. Too much rain in localities has also caused some damage.

Boll weevils have about destroyed the top crop and have damaged the middle crop in infested areas of Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia, and have done considerable damage in localities in Texas. Over practically all this area no top crop is looked for. Owing to the extreme lateness of the crop the late fruitage, when unmolested by insects, is in serious danger of damage by frost of average date.

The lateness of the crop is being emphasized by the slowness of picking in getting under way. There are many local reports of premature opening, and in dry Southern Texas picking is about completed. But in the northern half of the belt picking is just beginning, and along the extreme northern border gins have not yet begun to run.

There are some complaints of labor shortage, but as a rule there will probably be enough to harvest the crop. There are many growers disposed to hold for very high prices, but as a rule correspondents report that most growers will sell above 20 cents, but stubbornly resist a decline below that figure.

This is the last report this paper will publish on the crop this season. The usual quantitative estimate of the yield will be made some time in November.

Condition by States, with comparisons with last month, follows:

State.	Condition.	Last Month.
North Carolina	59	69
South Carolina	67	74
Georgia	60	68
Alabama	57	65
Mississippi	63	75
Louisiana	68	75
Texas	53	55
Arkansas	63	79
Tennessee	68	80
Oklahoma	66	84

.... Average 59.8 67.8

BATTLE IN THE AIR.

British Airmen Defeat Squad of German Raiders Over London.

London, Sept. 26.—In a thrilling battle British airmen succeeded in breaking up the formation of the German air fleet approaching London high and fast last night, and this is reported to be responsible for the light casualty list and the small material damage. Six were killed and 16 hurt in the southeastern poorer section of the London district. The raiders were forced to separate and all but one fled closely pursued. London night life was little affected.

PAY FOR OCEAN TONNAGE.

Shipping Board Fixes Price It Will Pay for Requisitioned Ships.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The shipping board has decided to pay \$5.75 monthly for each ton of shipping requisitioned. The board will soon take over every American ship available for overseas service.

BIG STRIKE SATURDAY.

TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND WILL BE CALLED OUT.

Three Steel Shipyards, Sixteen Wooden Shipyards and Forty Contract Shops Affected.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 25.—A strike at 10 o'clock Saturday morning of 22,000 members of the 15 metal trades unions employed in Seattle shipyards and allied contract shops was ordered today by the Seattle Metal Trades Council, the central organization of the 15 unions. The strike call, it was said, is the result of the insistent demand of the rank and file of the shipyard workers for a "show down" on the long pending wage increase controversy.

As near as can be estimated, three big steel shipyards, about 16 wooden shipyards and 40 contract shops will be affected by the strike. The Skinner & Eddie plant, having granted the wage increase, will not be affected. Three wooden shipyards and six or more contract shops also have signed the new wage agreement.

Receipt yesterday of telegrams from President Wilson and Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, urging that no action be taken, gave some hope that a walkout might be averted, but this vanished when press dispatches announced that the president was planning to have the Seattle wage controversy settled by the wage adjustment committee of the United States shipping board in connection with similar controversies in other Pacific Coast cities.

These dispatches precipitated the calling of the general strike. The council's board of business agents took the position that the government had hopelessly misunderstood the Seattle situation in attempting to link it with the situations in San Francisco and Portland and that further attempts to postpone the walkout would be useless.

Though about the same demands have been made in all three cities, metal tradesmen explained, the Seattle case differed from that in San Francisco, in that the workers had not gone on strike, but had continued at work pending negotiations with their employers under an agreement that the wage increase granted should be retroactive to August 1.

MINERS' DEMANDS REFUSED.

Coal Operators Tell Miners They Cannot Increase Wages Twenty-five Per Cent.

Washington, Sept. 26.—The coal operators of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Western Pennsylvania today notified the miners' representatives that they are unable to meet the miners' demands for a twenty-five per cent wage increase. Another conference will be held.

GERMAN INSPIRED TRAITORS.

I. W. W. Conspirators Persuaded Oklahoma Farmers to Take Up Arms Against Government.

Washington, Sept. 26.—A small corte of anti-war workers operating under the direction of the Industrial Workers of the World persuaded hundreds of Oklahoma farmers to take up arms against the government to block the enforcement of the draft law, according to revelations found in papers seized by the nation-wide raid on Industrial Workers' offices. They played on the exaggerated ideas of the law among illiterates.

PEOPLE LEAVING PETROGRAD.

Partial Evacuation of Russian Capital Continues.

Petrograd, Sept. 26.—Although there are no signs of panic among the population and there is indication of returning confidence, the partial evacuation of Petrograd is proceeding irrespective of whether the capital is removed to Moscow. Art and holy treasures are being packed for shipment.

KERENSKY AND DEMOCRATS.

Premier Says He Will Not Recognize Their Congress as Official.

Petrograd, Sept. 26.—Premier Kerensky's secretary said today that the premier would not recognize the democratic congress as official, but may address it. The greatest plan of the congress leaders is to bring about the formation of a cabinet responsible only to congress. They have urged Kerensky not to select a cabinet until the congress meets.

STEEL PRICES REDUCED.

GOVERNMENT AND PRODUCERS COME TO AGREEMENT.

Allies and the Public to Share in Reduction and Still, Fair Profit Will be Allowed to Manufacturers.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Steel prices in the United States were cut in half today when President Wilson approved a scale of quotations fixed in a voluntary agreement made by producers with the war industries board. The general public, as well as the American and allied governments, will share in the reductions, which will go into immediate effect, and the agreement provides that producers shall not reduce wages.

The prices will obtain until January 1, 1918, to be revised then if investigation shows they are inequitable.

The entire output of American steel plants will be distributed under supervision of the war board which will apportion it in a way best to meet the country's war requirements.

The new prices and the reduction they represent in present quotations follow:

Steel bars at Pittsburgh and Chicago, \$2.90 per hundredweight. The recent price was \$5.50.

Iron ore, basis, Lower Lake ports: Price agreed upon \$5.05 per gross ton, no change.

Coke, Connellsville: Price agreed upon \$6 net ton; recent prices, \$16 a ton; a reduction of 62.5 per cent.

The price agreement was reached after months of negotiations between steel producers and government officials. The prices were based on cost of production estimates made by the federal trade commission after an investigation conducted at the president's direction.

The chief point of difference that developed in the prolonged conferences was over the question of whether the public and the allied governments should share in the prices to be fixed. President Wilson has insisted that they should, and the administration has supported the Pomerene bill now pending in congress giving the government power to fix iron and steel prices generally. Inclusion of public and the allies in the voluntary reductions will still demands made in some government quarters that the steel output be requisitioned under the national defense act, but the Pomerene bill will be pushed, it is understood, that it may be enforced in event the voluntary agreement does not work out satisfactorily.

Officials in close touch with the situation said tonight the prices approved by the president were liberal and would allow fair profits to all steel plants.

In arriving at fair prices for both producer and consumer the great problem has been to set figures permitting small mills to produce without a loss and at the same time prevent the larger plants from taking too great a profit. At one time a plan was considered by which mills would have been paid varying costs, based on cost of production of capital investment, the entire output of all mills to be sold in a pool at one price. This was abandoned as too complicated.

Virtually the same purpose will be accomplished, officials said tonight, in the operation of the war tax bill, which will take for the government a large share of excess profits. The cost of producing steel plates in some of the larger mills is now about \$35 to \$36 a ton, according to the testimony of Joseph E. Davies, vice chairman of the federal trade commission, before the senate committee which is considering the Pomerene bill. This will give these mills a profit of \$24 a ton under the price of \$65, approved by the president. In the smaller mills, according to Commissioner Davies' testimony the cost runs much higher. Ninety per cent. of the plants, Mr. Davies said at the time, could sell plates at \$58 and make a profit.

Nothing is said in the White House announcement as to contracts now in force, but it is believed they will stand except in instances where the war board decides a manufacturer's product is not essential for war purposes and that he must relinquish a part of his requirements for more vital industries.

It is the intention of the government to use to the utmost its power to control steel distribution. This may mean in some instances, it was said tonight, the shutting down of entire industries where it appears the steel these industries are using can be used more advantageously elsewhere.

The war industries board in an order issued today divided industry into three classes, directing that preference

STEP FOR WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

HOUSE VOTES 181 TO 107 FOR CREATION OF COMMITTEE ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

Actively Fight in Prospect—Both "Suffs" and "Antis" Confident of Victory in Battle Over Amendment.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Creation of a committee on woman suffrage was ordered by the house late today by a vote of 181 to 107.

The ways and means committee will name the personnel of the new committee, which will assume charge of all suffrage bills, now handled by the strongly anti-suffrage judiciary committee. Either Representative Raker, of California, or Representative Taylor, of Colorado, probably will be made chairman. Mrs. Rankin, of Montana, has been suggested but as she is a Republican she is not likely to be named.

Creation of the committee assures an early fight on the Susan B. Anthony suffrage amendment at the next session of congress. Both suffragists and anti-suffragists say they are anxious that the bill be reported as they are confident of victory on the floor.

The antis, headed by Chairman Webb, of the judiciary committee, made a hard fight today against the resolution. They maintained that its adoption would be taken as an endorsement of White House picketing.

Miss Rankin and Representative Pou, chairman of the rules committee, who reported the resolution, made the principal speeches for it.

The senate suffrage committee has been organized several years. While the house was voting four of the Woman party's so-called pickets were arrested for displaying banners before the White House. They were released on bond to appear tomorrow.

WONT FIX PRICES.

Lever and Byrnes Learn Status of Sweet Potatoes and Cotton Seed Products.

Washington, Sept. 24.—Representatives Lever and Byrnes today conferred with Food Administrator Hoover as to the status of potatoes and cotton seed products. Mr. Hoover stated he had no intention of fixing the prices; that it was planned to license potato dealers in order to eliminate speculative profits. As to cotton seed products Mr. Hoover said certain crushers had requested that he fix the price they should pay for the raw product, but he had refused; that he does propose to license the agents who handle seed after it has left the hands of the producer, because many speculators who formerly operated in wheat have transferred their speculation to cotton seed products. The food administrator has notified the cotton oil exchanges that their transactions must be perfectly legitimate, or else the government will consider closing the exchanges.

The opinion of Mr. Hoover is that the drop in the price of cotton seed was due in part to the embargo placed upon cotton seed cake, which has heretofore been going to neutral nations for the fattening of cattle, which in turn were sold to Germany. About the time of the drop in price 2,000,000 tons of cotton seed cake were held upon boats of Norway and Sweden in American ports.

Messrs. Lever and Byrnes urged that no steps be taken affecting cotton seed or its products until representatives of the farmers had been consulted, and were assured this would be done.

Mr. Hoover has nothing to do with prosecuting combinations of oil companies or seed crushers' associations, that being the duty of the department of justice. Messrs. Lever and Byrnes state that they will be glad to have sent to them any evidence as to such combinations in order that they may present it to the department of justice.

In transportation of iron and steel and other products be given to them in the order of their independence as related to the conduct of the war. Class A, comprising war work, comes first; class B, comprising industries indirectly related to the war, second and class C, comprising all other industries, last.

The reductions will not affect navy purchases for a time, as Secretary Daniels already has contracts for 600,000 tons of steel at prices lower than those named today. This steel will be sufficient to carry through the 1916-1917 building program.

Future navy contracts will be made at the higher prices. Secretary Daniels said today he was satisfied with the new prices for the future inasmuch as the public will share in them.